



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**  
*Ageing and Long-Term Support Administration*  
*PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600*

August 3, 2022

**AL TSA: ALF #2022-029**  
**MEDICAL TEST SITE WAIVER REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS**

Dear Assisted Living Facility Administrator:

This letter is to inform you about state and federal regulations related to COVID-19 and other medical tests done in Assisted Living Facilities (ALF). Certain types of medical testing require a state Medical Test Site Waiver (MTSW) license. One type of activity requiring a MTSW license is testing residents for COVID-19. Other types of medical testing requiring a MTSW license include, but are not limited to, blood glucose tests and urine tests.

On December 16, 2020, RCS sent a [Dear Provider](#) letter to ALF administrators notifying them of the need for a Medical Test Site license to perform point-of-care COVID-19 testing and reporting of test results.

This letter explains federal and Washington state MTSW licensure requirements and how to decide if the medical tests conducted in your facility require a MTSW license.

**Federal and state Medical Test Site Waivers**

In Washington state, a MTSW license is required to perform certain medical tests where Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services federal regulations require a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) waived certificate. The Washington state MTSW license meets both federal and state requirements and includes both the state license number **and** a CLIA number to meet requirements.

**How do I decide if a MTSW license is required?**

MTSW licensure is required when the ALF administers a medical test (such as a COVID-19 test or blood glucose test), or interprets the test result, or acts upon the test results. Examples of activities that require a MTSW license are when a facility:

- Uses rapid COVID-19 tests for residents.
- Tests blood glucose for a resident.
- Dips test sticks in urine to test for ketones or other analytes.
- Reports a test result to a medical facility who may adjust a resident's diet or medication in response to a test result.

**When is a MTSW license NOT required?**

MTSW licensure is **not** required if a person performs and interprets their own medical test or shows their test result to someone else. For example, when:

- A staff person takes a rapid COVID-19 test and interprets the result, then calls the facility to report they will or will not be coming to work.
- A resident independently takes the medical test and acts upon the results themselves (such as by adjusting their own diet or medication or calling the medical facility).

### **What do I do if a MTSW is required?**

If the ALF is testing residents using a medical test, then a MTSW license is required. The facility must apply for a MTSW license through the Department of Health (DOH) to be compliant with state and federal regulations.

- Facilities must mail the completed [MTSW license application](#) to the Olympia address listed on the application.
- Facilities that have submitted a MTSW license application with fee payment may conduct testing activities while their MTSW license is pending. Once the application is processed, facilities will receive an email with their Medical Test Site and CLIA Number from DOH.
- A facility who already has a MTSW license to perform COVID-19 testing must submit a [Test Menu Change Form 505-088](#) to add to their license any other tests they are already conducting (such as blood glucose monitoring) to their existing MTSW license.
- For more information on how to apply for a Washington state MTSW license, use this link:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/FacilitiesNewReneworUpdate/LaboratoryQualityAssurance/Licensing/Applications>

### **Are there reporting requirements related to medical testing?**

There are reporting requirements related to COVID-19 testing. For information about reporting COVID-19 test results to DOH, use this link:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/HealthcareFacilities/ReportingTestResults/ReportingCOVID19TestResultsforPointofCareTestingFacilities>.

### **Where can I get more information?**

You can find educational materials on the DSHS ALF webpage. Resources include a video recording of a webinar explaining the requirements, the application process and reporting requirements for test results. You can also find a Power Point presentation, Question and Answer document, and MTSW Readiness Checklist. You may access these materials by following this link: [Information for Assisted Living Facilities](#)

On September 22, 2022, DOH and RCS will answer prepared questions about MTSW during the DOH Covid Long-Term Care Q&A Zoom call (11am-12pm). To have your question answered in this forum, send your question to [LQA@doh.wa.gov](mailto:LQA@doh.wa.gov) by September 10. Include the Subject line "COVID Q&A Call".

To access the call:

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click this URL to join. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84859981855>

Or One tap mobile:

+12532158782,,84859981855# US (Tacoma)

+16699009128,,84859981855# US (San Jose)

Or join by phone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 253 215 8782 or +1 669 900 9128 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 444 9171 or +1 646 931 3860 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 386 347 5053 or +1 564 217 2000 or +1 646 558 8656

Webinar ID: 848 5998 1855

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We encourage facilities to apply for the MTSW as soon as possible. There will be an education period for the next several months to allow facilities time to adjust to the requirements and get licensed. During this time Residential Care Services staff who identify an unlicensed Medical Test Site during inspection or investigation will provide education on how to obtain a Medical Test Site Waiver license. RCS staff will not write citations or make referrals to Department of Health until after June 30, 2023.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions about MTSW licensure, please contact the Department of Health Medical Test Site program at [LQA@doh.wa.gov](mailto:LQA@doh.wa.gov) or 253-395-6746.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Anbesse". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Anbesse, Director  
Residential Care Services

*DSHS: "Transforming Lives"*